



SEMA News

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency

Preparedness · Response · Recovery

Spring

2014



SEMA Director Michael Barrett discusses the SEMA reorganization with Red Cross leaders from across Missouri in Gov. Jay Nixon's office on March 5.

SEMA Reorganization Paying Dividends

On Feb. 4, 2013, Gov. Jay Nixon signed Executive Order 13-01, transferring the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism from the Department of Health and Senior Services to the State Emergency Management Agency. This comprehensive plan is designed to further strengthen state emergency planning, response and recovery coordination under a single lead agency – SEMA

"By combining and coordinating our emergency response teams, we will ensure that people who work together during disasters have the opportunity to prepare and train together as well," Gov. Nixon said at the time.

The CERT transfer to SEMA became effective Aug. 28, 2013. It added experienced planners and trainers, bolstering SEMA's ability to prepare for the entire spectrum of disasters. Three days later, SEMA reorganized from five branches into three divisions – preparedness, response and recovery – the three phases of emergency management. The reorganization not only recognizes the emergency management cycle but the streamlined management structure means better communication and interaction between SEMA divisions. **(Continued on page 10)**

Missouri Now Using WebEOC

WebEOC is an online tool to assist emergency responders with information sharing and resource request tracking during emergencies, events and even daily operations. This provides leadership at all jurisdictions with a common operating picture and real-time situational awareness.

Missouri's statewide WebEOC system has been in limited use since last summer. Since then, the emergency response communication and coordination system has been used to help coordinate response to inclement weather events. Currently, more than 1,000 individual user accounts have been registered and that number continues to increase.

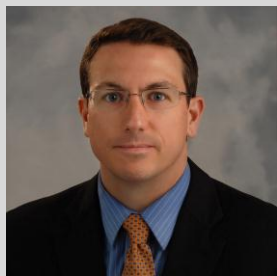
"Missouri WebEOC will speed up information sharing at all levels and help provide a solid, common operating picture. The experience with recent storms showed WebEOC is easy to use and really allows users to get a good picture of what's going on around the state," said SEMA Director of Operations Scott Davis.

SEMA encourages all jurisdictions to register and check out WebEOC. "It's an extremely user-friendly platform, but trying it out before you need it for a disaster will be a real advantage," Davis said.

Missouri WebEOC includes customized boards developed specifically for Missouri. WebEOC boards are electronic information displays grouped by subject. Use of the statewide system is restricted to Missouri response partners. **(Continued on page 11)**

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Director's Letter

"Together, Missouri's emergency management community creates a collective dynamic in which we all rely upon, learn from and support one another."

Michael Barrett

In the three months I have been SEMA director, I've been focusing the lion's share of my time on crucial funding issues, supporting SEMA's response to recent weather events, and facilitating the SEMA reorganization into three branches (Preparedness, Response and Recovery). But I've also made it a priority to travel throughout Missouri to meet the many professionals serving their communities as emergency managers and first responders. It's reinforced my belief that Missouri citizens can rely with confidence on their experienced local managers and responders. I also appreciate the suggestions our colleagues have shared. The visits have been invaluable in helping guide my vision for SEMA.

They've also confirmed my belief that emergency management is much more than a profession – it is a community that includes local, regional and state partners, police and fire, health professionals, faith-based and other non-profit organizations. Together, this community creates a collective dynamic in which we all rely upon, learn from, and support one another. In my first Director's Letter, I want to convey SEMA's commitment to this community – this great partnership.

SEMA STRENGTHS

One of SEMA's great strengths is the knowledge and expertise our team has developed in the complex aspects of emergency preparedness and response. This has been accomplished, in part, by carefully collecting and analyzing data from disasters – major and minor – throughout the state. It's one reason SEMA values the information that all of you provide during a disaster response.

STAYING INFORMED

But information should flow both ways. That's why we've brought back the SEMA newsletter – we want to keep Missouri's emergency management and response community informed about what's going on at SEMA, at the Capitol, and across the

state. The SEMA newsletter will help highlight the great work being done locally, share local emergency manager profiles, provide information on training and funding opportunities, and discuss best practices in emergency preparedness and response. The newsletter is just one more way we at SEMA can support Missouri's emergency management community.

INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

SEMA has also invested in WebEOC, an online information-sharing network designed to enhance situational awareness, improve resource management and strengthen overall communication during an emergency response. Before building Missouri WebEOC, SEMA worked extensively with our local partners and representatives from all Emergency Support Functions. We hope all our partners embrace WebEOC as we intend it – as an effective tool that utilizes a single hub to share critical information among response partners when fast, accurate communication is essential.

Whether it is used to submit a resource request or evaluating the potential impact of dangerous weather headed toward your community, WebEOC's benefits are many. But like all new tools and processes, it will take time and commitment to work out the issues that will undoubtedly arise. I hope you will join the hundreds of other members of our community who are already benefiting from WebEOC.

Lastly, if I have not had the benefit of meeting you during my recent travels, I look forward to doing so at SEMA's annual conference, April 29 - May 2 in St. Charles. Please stop me and say hello.

Michael Barrett

Director

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency

Changes to Medical Countermeasures Readiness Assessment

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced changes for the 2014-15 grant year that will impact local public health agencies that are part of the federal Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI).

The changes focus on how CDC evaluates state and local plans to provide critical medical countermeasures, including medicine, vaccines, medical supplies and equipment during a major public health emergency. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant provides funding to help cover costs related to medical countermeasures planning and preparation. In addition to checking state and local readiness, annual assessments help ensure the appropriate use of federal funding.

GREATER ACCURACY

For the past decade, CDC has used the technical assistance review (TAR) process to assess medical countermeasure preparedness. While the TAR effectively outlined the planning steps for deploying medical countermeasures, it did not accurately reflect the state and local ability to implement medical countermeasure plans. The new assessment process will better measure the ability to plan and execute a large-scale response.

"This new assessment builds on the progress PHEP grant awardees have made over the years," said Melissa Friel, SEMA Preparedness Section manager. "It's also intended to recognize strengths and best practices, as well as to identify where more targeted technical assistance is needed."

FEWER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REVIEWS

Under the new assessment process, all CRI counties will no longer be required to participate in an annual CDC or state TAR; instead, only one CRI county in each CRI region will participate in a TAR next year. However, CDC may also conduct TARs for CRI counties struggling to meet the medical countermeasure operational readiness measures.

"CDC has not released the process for determining which counties will still require a TAR," said Friel. "We will share the exact methods for conducting local TARs as soon as the details are available. The state will still be required to complete a CDC-conducted TAR."



Fourth graders at Ashland, Mo.'s Southern Boone Elementary School shelter in an interior restroom during Missouri's Statewide Tornado Drill on March 6, 2014.

40th Annual Statewide Tornado Drill

On Thursday, March 6, Missourians across the state participated in the 40th annual Statewide Tornado Drill. The National Weather Service (NWS) sent an alert on NOAA weather radios to start the drill at 1:30 p.m., outdoor warning sirens sounded and people in schools, state and local government offices and private workplaces took shelter in safe places. The NWS had postponed the drill from March 4, due to a snow and ice storm and its aftereffects that impacted much of the state from March 1 -3.

The NWS sets the date for the tornado drill, which is usually the first Tuesday in March at 1:30 p.m. The drill is part of Severe Weather Awareness Week in Missouri, which focuses on severe weather education and preparation, including severe thunderstorms, flooding and lightning. Get ready for next year by reviewing the NWS Severe Weather Awareness Week information page and consider promoting the link to the public:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lx/?n=severeweek>

Make sure you're on the list to receive SEMA News. Send your email address to: brian.quinn@sema.dps.mo.gov. Use subject "SEMA News."

Missouri Recovering from Two Major Disasters Declared in 2013

Missouri received two federal major disaster declarations in 2013 for Public Assistance funding, both of which involved severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding. Total damage estimates for both declarations were more than \$31 million. A FEMA/SEMA Joint Field Office opened in Jefferson City to assist with both recovery efforts.

FEMA-4130-DR-MO

Severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding resulted in a disaster declaration for 27 Missouri counties under FEMA's Public Assistance Program for the incident period of May 29 to June 10, 2013. Gov. Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency on May 31, 2013. Working together, SEMA, FEMA and local jurisdictions estimated the damage at \$13.5 million.

In response, FEMA-4130-DR-MO was declared on July 18, 2013, for Barton, Callaway, Cape Girardeau, Chariton, Clark, Howard, Iron, Knox,

Lewis, Lincoln, Maries, Marion, Miller, Montgomery, Osage, Perry, Pike, Putnam, Ralls, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, Sullivan, Texas, and Webster counties.

FEMA-4144-DR-MO

Just eight weeks later, severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding hit again, resulting in a federal major disaster declaration for 18 counties under FEMA's Public Assistance Program for the incident period of Aug. 2 to Aug. 14, 2013. Gov. Nixon declared a state of emergency on Aug. 27, 2013. Working together, SEMA, FEMA and local jurisdictions estimated the damage at \$18.4 million.

FEMA-4144-DR-MO was declared on Sept. 6, 2013, for Barry, Camden, Cedar, Dade, Dallas, Laclede, Maries, McDonald, Miller, Osage, Ozark, Phelps, Pulaski, Shannon, Taney, Texas, Webster and Wright counties.

FEMA-4130-DR-MO recovery efforts and project formulation are approximately 95 percent complete and approximately 60 percent complete for FEMA-4144-DR-MO.

New Safe Rooms Now Provide Shelter in Hard-hit Areas

As of April 1, 74 community tornado safe room projects have been completed in Missouri since June 2004. Currently, 63 safe room projects are under construction across the state; design plans for seven projects are being reviewed by FEMA; and 20 additional safe rooms are currently in the design phase. FEMA funds up to 75 percent of eligible expenses for approved safe room projects through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. For information, click "Mitigation Management" on the SEMA website under "Programs" or contact SEMA State Hazard Mitigation Officer Elizabeth Weyrauch at elizabeth.weyrauch@sema.dps.mo.gov or (573) 526-9375.



The Fair Grove School District has a safe room designed to withstand an EF-5 tornado. The 9,600 sq. ft. structure, completed on May 1, 2013, will be open to the community and provide refuge for 1,592 students, staff and local residents during a storm. When not used as a safe room, it serves as a gymnasium and multi-purpose facility. Fair Grove is located in Greene County, about 18 miles north of Springfield.

Workers finalize the hardwood floor installation for the new safe room/gymnasium project for the R-VI School District in Waynesville. The community safe room will accommodate 950 students, faculty, staff, and residents. Waynesville is located in Pulaski County, about 75 miles northeast of Springfield.



The Jasper County R-V School District, which is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Joplin, completed a tornado safe room on May 29, 2013. The facility will accommodate a total of 898 students, staff, and local residents. When not being used as a safe room, it serves as a cafeteria and gymnasium.

Big Problem in a Small Town

Collaboration Key to Bland's Response

When he hung up the phone before dawn on Friday, Feb. 7, 2014, Mike Schoening knew he was in for a long day. A water main had ruptured directly under Bland City Hall. As Gasconade County Emergency Management director, Schoening would lead the response effort.

Water main breaks usually only cause headaches for city officials and affected residents. But in Bland, the rupture cut water service to all 529 residents, including a large population of senior citizens. The city's two water towers were drained and city hall was severely damaged. This was turning into an all-out emergency.

SEMA REGIONAL COORDINATOR DEPLOYS

Schoening contacted SEMA and the Operations Division quickly went to work. Because so many people would need assistance, SEMA's Operations Branch included the Emergency Human Services Section (SEHS) as part of the state-level response effort. SEMA Regional Coordinator for Region I Brenda Gerlach, deployed to Bland to coordinate state resources on site.

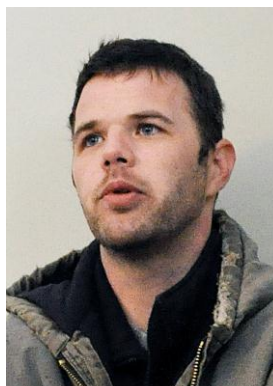
Schoening's long day was just getting started. Because water line breaks can contaminate drinking water, a city-wide boil order was implemented and residents were advised against drinking untreated water. Schoening worked with local media to get out health-safety messages.

"The volunteers were amazing and we couldn't have reached out to the citizens without them."

EVERYONE PITCHES IN

Partnering with elected officials, Schoening organized outreach teams. Schoening's wife, Crystal, even pitched in with the volunteer portion of the effort. They went door-to-door checking on residents.

"The volunteers that were organized by my wife were amazing and we couldn't have reached out to the citizens without them," Schoening says. Volunteers came from the Gasconade County Sheriff's Office, Gasconade County E-911, Owensville Volunteer Fire Department, Owensville Ambulance District, Osage Ambulance District, Belle



Mike Schoening at an emergency city meeting Feb. 7. Courtesy Dave Marner/Gasconade County Republican.

Mike Schoening has served as Gasconade County's part-time emergency management director since November 2012. He also is a full-time dispatcher for the Gasconade County 911 Center and is a reserve deputy for the Gasconade County Sheriff's Department. He is a life-long Gasconade County resident.

Volunteer Fire Department, and the Belle Police Department.

Schoening arranged for the purchase and donations of bottled water and coordinated deliveries. A point of distribution (POD) was set up. Outreach teams delivered bottled water door-to-door to people who could not get to the POD. County and city elected officials even assisted with deliveries.

Meanwhile, SEMA SEHS had requested that the American Red Cross' Southern Missouri Chapter deliver five pallets of bottled water to a local church, which was also assisting.

REPAIRS COMPLETED, BOIL ORDER LIFTED

By the end of the weekend, the water main had been repaired. After two days of favorable water testing, the boil order was lifted on Sunday. Work was already underway to identify an interim location to house city operations.

"I would like to thank SEMA for all of its support," Schoening says. "I would also like to thank Walmart and the American Red Cross for donating a sufficient supply of bottled water to the residents of Bland."

Bland's experience shows how important collaboration is to effective emergency response. At a critical time, all levels of response partners teamed up and quickly served the people of Bland.



Waynesville was one of the Missouri communities hit hard by deadly flash flooding in August 2013.

Preparing for Spring Severe Weather 2014

As Missouri's emergency managers and first responders prepare for the 2014 spring severe weather season, it can be useful to review events and lessons from last year. According to the National Weather Service, seven people died in flash flooding in Missouri in 2013, a severe weather hazard that often attracts less media coverage than tornadoes. While the NWS reported 49 confirmed tornadoes in Missouri in 2013, there were no tornado deaths and only 10 injuries. The 49 tornadoes was 20 more than 2012, when 29 twisters resulted in six deaths and 70 injuries.

FLOODING

Rapidly rising creeks and streams with fatal consequences in August 2013 proved once again that torrential downpours often can lead to deadly flash flooding at any time of year in Missouri. On Aug. 8, in Hollister, near Branson, Turkey Creek rose 15 feet in just 25 minutes. As much as 10 inches of rain had fallen in the area overnight. It led to evacuations and multiple rescues by boat. Before sunrise that day, in McDonald County, flooded Brush Creek swept across Highway 90, west of Jane, taking the vehicle of 69-year-old Helen Pendergraft, killing her. Brush Creek in that area is an intermittent creek that often has little water flow.

In Waynesville, in Pulaski County, some rain gauges recorded 15 inches of rain in two days. On Aug. 6 in Waynesville, 23-year-old Jessica Lee and her 4-year-old son, Elyjah, were killed when their car was swept away in the early morning hours by flooded Mitchell Creek. Nationally, more than half of flash flooding deaths are due to driving into flood

waters, often when rising water and washed out roads are obscured by darkness.

Lessons from 2013's Deadly Oklahoma Tornadoes

About 80 emergency managers, television meteorologists and National Weather Service personnel gathered in Kansas City on Feb. 20 to discuss lessons learned from two deadly tornadoes that hit Oklahoma in May 2013. The setting was an Integrated Warning Team meeting at the NWS Training Center that featured a discussion led by KCTV5 meteorologist Tom Wachs. Wachs was solo storm chasing near Oklahoma City on May 20, when an EF-5 tornado ripped through Moore, killing 24 people, including seven students at Plaza Towers Elementary School. Wachs arrived on scene shortly after the massive destruction.



Meteorologist Tom Wachs leads a discussion of lessons learned from the 2013 Oklahoma tornadoes.

EARLY AND SPECIFIC FORECAST MESSAGING

Three key lessons were discussed. First, meteorologists in Oklahoma had focused on a key message of the day early on May 20 – that a tornado could form around school dismissal time and that schools should consider sheltering options if a tornado warning were in effect or likely to go into effect. The possibility of tornadoes had been in the forecast for several days, but by early May 20, the timing became clearer, leading to concern about releasing children to walk home or having school buses exposed during severe weather.

(Continued next page)

Lessons

(Continued from page 6)

Just after 8 a.m., the Norman, Okla. NWS office sent an e-mail to almost 400 government, hospital and emergency management officials: "Please be sure that schools in your area are aware of this risk and that they start thinking about what they will do if there are warnings at those critical times today." Updates followed throughout the day.

Some parents pulled their children from school in anticipation of a violent tornado. At 2:40 p.m., a tornado warning was issued. What would become the most deadly and destructive U.S. tornado of 2013 first touched down at 2:56 p.m. and tracked east-northeastward across Moore and parts of south Oklahoma City. A rarely used Tornado Emergency was issued at 3:01 p.m. The community heard the messages and responded, including schools, some of which held back student releases. The messaging is widely believed to have helped save lives.

SHELTERING IN SCHOOLS

About 75 students remained at Moore's Plaza Towers Elementary School (many had been pulled early by parents). Some of the children were sheltered in a first floor school hallway of the third-grade center, a 2005-built structure next to the main school. When Plaza Towers took a direct hit, part of the hallway was buried by a collapsed wall. Seven third graders died. A first grade teacher in another part of the school reported that as she saw a hallway start to give way she pulled her students into a restroom, where they survived.

One message that has been discussed in the past is that hallways are often not the best sheltering option. Interior rooms and interior stairwells in the lowest level of a structure are generally recommended locations. School districts may want to consider using multidisciplinary teams, including architects or engineers, to review each school for the best sheltering options.

Recent disclosures from a soon to be released American Society of Civil Engineers and the Structural Engineering Institute report have pointed to likely widespread serious design and construction problems at Plaza Towers and a second school that collapsed, Briarwood Elementary. Experts examined the wreckage of Briarwood and photos of Plaza Towers, which had largely been cleared of debris by the time they arrived on scene. An engineer who is the report's

principal author, referring to Briarwood Elementary, told [The Journal Record](#) newspaper of Oklahoma City, "There were places in the building that failed that we should have seen more resistance in the building elements. There wasn't a lot of steel in any of the masonry walls. There were not very long splices between metal reinforcing bars."

THE DANGERS OF DRIVING AND STORM CHASING DURING TORNADO WARNINGS

Eleven days after the Moore tornado, what would become a 2.5-mile wide tornado – the widest ever recorded – formed near El Reno, Okla. It remained over mostly open terrain and did not impact many structures, but it will be infamous for two key reasons beyond its size: four storm chasers were among the eight people it killed (all eight fatalities were in vehicles); and the evening rush hour traffic in Oklahoma City that is reported to have included people who were trying to outrun it. Interstates 35, 40, 44 and 240 were reported to have been "parking lots."



Track of May 31, 2014 El Reno Tornado. Courtesy NOAA.

Traffic tie-ups are among the reasons that experts advise never leaving a house and trying to drive away from a tornado in an urban area. (An exception would be a mobile home, since they offer very little protection and should be abandoned for a strong shelter long before a warning is issued.) But in this case, the situation is believed to have been compounded by residents who actually left their residences to head away from the oncoming twister. It is believed this may have been due to the deadly Moore tornado that was still all too fresh in people's memories. In addition, an Oklahoma City television station's chief meteorologist has been widely criticized for advising viewers without tornado safe shelters to leave their residences and "drive south" away from the tornado.

2013 Oklahoma Severe Weather Leads NWS to Recommend Changes

On March 21, the National Weather Service issued its [Service Assessment on the May 2013 Oklahoma Tornadoes and Flash Flooding](#), which included a recommendation that NWS develop a protocol for when there are multiple severe weather events.

The report concluded that while the weather service warned about flash flooding on May 31, the day of the El Reno tornado, the public generally was not aware of it. Instead, attention focused on the tornado threat. While the El Reno tornado killed eight, 13 people died in flash flooding. See the full NWS report [here](#).

Lessons

(Continued from page 7)

Fortunately, the tornado, which injured about 150, dissipated before it got to metropolitan Oklahoma City. But reminding people to shelter in the basement or interior room – including closets – in the lowest level of a home and never trying to drive away from a tornado in a densely populated area is a key lesson.

The four storm chasers killed, who included respected tornado researcher Tim Samaras, are the first known deaths in the history of storm chasing. It's believed dozens of storm chasers were in the area on May 31. Meteorologists say it was not just the twister's immense size that caught even experienced storm chasers off-guard, but other factors that included the remarkable speed at which its size jumped, its abrupt change in direction, a doubling in its forward motion speed and the fact that it was partially obscured by precipitation. The El Reno tornado is another cautionary tale for the increasing number of amateurs drawn to storm chasing and even those who simply attempt to videotape or photograph tornadoes from their homes. Instead, they are all urged to seek safe shelter immediately.

TAKING ACTION LOCALLY

"Tom's presentation helped us reconnect to the stress and emotion accompanying big severe weather outbreaks, and it also helped re-emphasize just how important it is for the Integrated Warning Team to communicate an accurate message with a unified voice during these outbreaks," said the

NWS' Kansas City Warning Coordination Meteorologist Andy Bailey.

Following the Oklahoma tornado discussion, the Kansas City area Integrated Weather Team decided to experiment with developing a unified theme or message of the day in advance of more serious severe weather outbreaks. Said the NWS' Bailey, "Think of the most recent winter storm that occurred a few weeks back when it was stressed for people to not venture out, stagger work times, work from home, and for businesses to be as flexible as possible with their employees. The message was uniform, and it was everywhere. And it worked." The group will also now use a closed IWT Facebook page to share ideas on cooperation.



Communicating Safety Messages Ahead of the Storm

Gov. Jay Nixon used a Feb. 3 visit to the Missouri Department of Transportation's Springfield complex to encourage the public to avoid unnecessary travel during a snow storm forecast to affect much of Missouri beginning the next day. After being updated on the latest forecast by NWS Springfield meteorologist Steve Runnels, the Governor was joined at a news conference by MoDOT Director Dave Nichols (pictured) and Missouri State Highway Patrol Sgt. Scott Sater. At the end of February, Gov. Nixon delayed his departure to Canada to lead a Missouri trade mission by 24 hours so that he could continue overseeing the state response to a snow and ice storm that affected Missouri from March 1 to 3.

No Missouri Tornado Deaths, 7 Flooding Fatalities in 2013 Reverses 7-Year Trend

In Missouri, 2013 was the first year since 2005 in which there were more flooding deaths than tornado deaths. Last year, there was not a single tornado death in Missouri – the first year that has been the case in the state since 2000. However, there were seven flash flooding deaths in Missouri, the highest total since 2008, when there were nine flooding deaths. In the 12 year period from 1990 to 2001, flooding deaths exceeded tornado deaths each year except for 1991. That trend shifted in 2002 and from 2002 to 2012, tornado deaths were higher than flooding death every year except for 2005. The accompanying chart was provided by the National Weather Service's St. Louis Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jim Kramper.

Missouri Flood and Tornado Deaths: 1990 - 2013

Year	Flood Deaths	Tornado Deaths	Year	Flood Deaths	Tornado Deaths
1990	5	0	2002	3	4
1991	0	2	2003	1	19
1992	4	0	2004	1	7
1993	28	0	2005	5	1
1994	3	2	2006	2	13
1995	3	0	2007	2	3
1996	7	0	2008	9	19
1997	6	0	2009	2	3
1998	13	0	2010	3	5
1999	4	0	2011	3	158
2000	2	0	2012	0	6
2001	3	1	2013	7	0

Source: National Weather Service. Note that the NWS does not include indirect deaths; therefore it attributes 158 deaths to the 2011 Joplin tornado, not 161 as is reported by other sources.



Flash Flood Videos Now Available

SEMA has added two flash flooding safety videos to the Missouri [StormAware](http://stormaware.mo.gov/) severe weather preparedness website. They are designed to convey just how rapidly small creeks and streams – sometimes just ankle deep – can be transformed into raging rivers in a matter of minutes. The videos, which feature NWS Springfield Warning Coordination Meteorologist Steve Runnels, show how darkness can obscure floodwater and washed out roads. We encourage our partner agencies to embed [StormAware](http://stormaware.mo.gov/) videos or the [website](http://stormaware.mo.gov/) in your own websites and to link to relevant videos when there is a specific weather threat in your area. <http://stormaware.mo.gov/>



The Pulaski County Emergency Operations Center was activated in response to August 2013 flooding.

Find SEMA News on the SEMA website
under "News and Publications."

www.sema.dps.mo.gov

SEMA Training Schedule April – June, 2014

Dates	Event Title	Location
April 1-6	Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Operations Times: April 1, 6-10pm; April 3, 6-10pm; April 5, 8am-4pm; April 6, 8am-4pm POST approved Sponsor: MERC	Mapaville Fire District, Mapaville
April 2-3	Disaster Management for Public Services POST approved Sponsor: SEMA	Warren County Emergency Management Agency, Warrenton
April 7	Facilitation Tools & Techniques Sponsor: SEMA Fill out an online application at: http://training.dps.mo.gov	Mo. Dept. of Health and Senior Services, 930 Wildwood, Jefferson City
April 8-9	ICS400 Advanced Incident Command System POST approved Sponsor: SEMA	Warrensburg Fire Station # 2, Warrensburg
April 16	Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities Sponsor: SEMA	Three Rivers Community College ARC, Poplar Bluff
April 22-23	Campus Emergencies: Prevention, Response and Recovery (Formally, <i>Executive Seminar: Prevention of, Response to and Recovery from Campus Emergencies</i>) POST approved Sponsor: SEMA	Missouri Western State College, Blum Union, St. Joseph
April 22-24	ICS 300 Intermediate Incident Command System POST approved Sponsor: SEMA	Warren County Emergency Management Agency, Warrenton
April 23	Disaster Mental Health and Psychological First Aid Workshop Sponsor: SEMA	SEMA – EOC. Jefferson City
April 25-27	Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Operations Time: 4/25 6-10pm 4/26 8am-7pm 4/27 8am-7pm POST approved Sponsor: MERC	Strafford Fire Station #1, Strafford
May 6	Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery POST approved Sponsor: SEMA	Freeman Health Center Conference Center, Joplin
May 8	Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery POST approved Sponsor: SEMA	Washington University, Danforth University Center, St. Louis
May 13-14	Community Healthcare Planning and Response to Disasters POST approved Sponsor: SEMA	Jefferson City Police Dept., Jefferson City
June 3-5	ICS 300 Intermediate Incident Command System POST approved Sponsor: SEMA	Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center, Conf. Room B, Cape Girardeau

Note: This list does not include invitation-only or local offering-only events. A complete SEMA training schedule with details is at: <http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm>

SEMA Reorganization

(Continued from page 1)

"The reorganization is already helping, not only internally, but also in the way we serve Missouri's emergency management community," SEMA director Michael Barrett said.

PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

The Preparedness Division facilitates integrated, coordinated statewide response plans and provides training for local and state personnel so that Missouri is ready to effectively respond to emergencies and disasters. SEMA's readiness mission now includes planning for public health and all medical aspects of emergencies with the integration of the CERT unit. In this new facet, division staff focus on building emergency response capability and capacity at the local and regional levels by working closely with local public health agencies and hospitals, and integrating local emergency management agencies and other response entities. By building and strengthening partnerships across response disciplines and levels, the preparedness division helps ensure that local, regional, state and federal emergency planning and response efforts are interconnected and coordinated.

The Preparedness Division has responsibility for All-Hazard Planning, Medical Counter-measures, Missouri's participation in the National Flood Insurance Plan (NFIP), Training and Exercises, Emergency Human Services, the Missouri Emergency Response Commission and the Radiological Emergency Program (REP).

RESPONSE DIVISION

The Response Division is responsible for disaster management operations whenever Missouri is affected by an emergency or disaster and for monitoring conditions and communicating with response partners. It includes the Readiness and Logistics and Resources sections. When a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor, or when an emergency event requires, the Response Division opens the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and coordinates disaster response with local governments, state agencies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The division develops emergency operations procedures for state and local governments and assists local governments in developing emergency response capabilities.

RECOVERY DIVISION

The Recovery Division is responsible for requesting and distributing federal and state funds for presidentially declared disasters and, following an event, works to assist Missouri communities to recover from and to mitigate against disasters. The Recovery Division comprises the Public Assistance, Fiscal Administration and Mitigation sections.

WebEOC

(Continued from page 1)

The system also includes an integrated resource request tracking process, which simplifies and streamlines the process so that critical resources can get where they're needed faster. WebEOC can also be used locally for large-scale planned events like county fairs. It can be used to record injuries, report missing persons, coordinate security patrols, discuss significant weather threats and more.

On March 4, SEMA conducted the first statewide WebEOC exercise, with 50 response agencies and entities across the state participating. It not only provided a chance for more than 240 participants to learn about the system but put WebEOC to the test. "That proved valuable as we learned capacity needed to be upgraded. The fix was accomplished during a lunch break and the afternoon drill went smoothly," Davis said.

WebEOC was already being used at the local level by Missouri Region D, Kansas City. A program called WebFUSION will allow Missouri WebEOC users to share and access information with other WebEOC systems.

Training will also continue; currently, 10 regional train-the-trainer courses have been completed and more than 70 regional trainers are ready to assist local WebEOC end users. Trainer and end-user manuals will soon be available.

A WebEOC website is available to provide useful information about the system including training and exercise opportunities, user manuals, access request forms and a trouble-shooting guide.

For more information go to <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/webeoc/>. For further assistance, contact the state WebEOC administrator at (573) 526-9214 or webeoc@dps.mo.gov.

If you have story ideas for SEMA News,
send them to:
brian.quinn@sema.dps.mo.gov

SEMA Conference is April 29 – May 2

The 26th Annual Emergency Management Conference is set for April 29 through May 2, 2014, at the St. Charles Convention Center, One Convention Plaza, St. Charles, Mo.

One of the featured keynote speakers will be Danny Snell, task force leader and hazmat WMD manager with the Texas Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team. Snell will provide his first-hand account and lessons learned from the response to the catastrophic explosion that rocked the small town of West, Texas, on April 17, 2013, killing 15 people and destroying hundreds of homes and businesses.

This year's conference includes many other knowledgeable speakers, breakout sessions providing information and insight about topics such as social media use during emergencies, healthcare coalition partnerships and the business EOC

concept. Attendees can also browse through an exhibit hall that will be open throughout the conference.

Other events being held in conjunction with the conference include the Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association (MEPA) board meeting, as well as the association's general membership meeting, election and hospitality reception.

The annual conference is designed for anyone with a direct role in emergency management or interest in emergency preparedness, response and recovery. It is an opportunity to gain useful information and insights, as well as to create and strengthen valuable emergency preparedness partnerships.

To register, and for more information on the 26th Annual Missouri Emergency Management Conference, visit <http://www.cvent.com/d/34q829>, or click on the link in "Upcoming Events" on the SEMA home page: www.sema.dps.mo.gov.

ATTENTION 2014 SEMA CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

The Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association (MEPA) Board of Directors cordially invites all MEPA members and conference attendees to its 2014 General Membership Meeting/Election and hospitality reception on **Tuesday evening, April 29**. Don't miss this chance to network with friends and colleagues and be part of the special roll out of the new **Missouri Emergency Management Association (MOEMA)**.

The event will be held in the Embassy Suites Hotel on **Tuesday, April 29th at 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** in the **Windsor Room**. A hospitality reception will begin at 6 p.m. with the general membership meeting starting at 7 p.m.

If you can't make this event, be sure to attend the Opening Remarks & Introductions at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 30. MOEMA also invites everyone to stop by its booth in the exhibition hall.

MOEMA's primary purpose is to:

- Promote a professional emergency management organization comprised of all disciplines of emergency management.
- Promote and enhance the effective management and operation of professional emergency management offices and services throughout the State of Missouri.
- Study, research, collect, compile and disseminate information about effective emergency management and related functions to federal, state and local governments, and other entities throughout the State of Missouri.
- Monitor the legislative process and the decision-making processes of the state regulatory agencies as it relates to the interests of the membership, and to keep the membership informed.
- Develop, promote and conduct educational programs including workshops, seminars and conferences in the field of emergency management.

Active membership in MOEMA is open to any official in any political subdivision in Missouri or anyone responsible for emergency management functions, as well as to anyone employed by a federal, state or local government organization. Membership is also open to anyone from any corporation or business with offices located in Missouri when these persons are responsible for or involved in emergency planning or safety within the agency or company, or wishes to support the work of MOEMA.